



DATE: July 14, 1980

TO: Division File

FROM: Brad Benning

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



343498

REFERENCE #6
SITE NAME J.J. Schultz Container
TE ID ILDO96778547

03116205

SUBJECT: Cook Co. Lemont/J.J. Schultz container

On June 30, 1980 Mary Schroeder and Brad Benning representing the IEPA/DLPC investigated the J.J. Schultz Container Co. located in Lemont, Illinois. Mrs. Schultz accompanied us during most of the inspection. Mr. Schultz buys old fiber and metal drums, cleans them out and resells them again. The 2-3 acre site has one main building where the cleaning operation takes place, the rest of the site is storage for a large quantity of old metal and fiber drums, one appeared to contain some form of grease and water and the other a dark oil substance. A soil sample was taken in a small gulley that ran from the back door of the building and disappeared into some rocks about 40 feet behind the building. This is believed to be the area that the wash water drained into after cleaning the drums. There is a marsh area approximately 100 yards west of the site, a water and soil sample were taken to check if any wash water had migrated into the marsh area.

On July 10, 1980, I returned to J.J. Schultz, to take an inventory on the number of drums on site. The approximate number of drums are:

162 plastic drums
409 fiber drums
2292 metal drums

the location of the drums are shown on the attached sketch. A pit had been dug in the area where the wash water was draining into. The pit was approximately 5' x 5' and 5' deep. Water was present in the pit, but is unknown whether it is rainwater or ground water, a complete set of samples were taken of the water. At approximately 1:30 p.m., Jack Barnett of Emergency Response, J. Tomaras and R. Kaufmann of M.S.D. arrived at the site along with a representative of Petrochem which was hired to do the clean up work. The pit was further excavated at this time to try and determine the path of the wash water. There appeared to be approximately 2 feet of shale rock, the 3 feet of very dense clay, M.S.D. personnel and Jack Barnett agreed that the wash water was probably migrating through the shale rock toward the Southwest. Excavation into the shale rock, southwest of the pit showed signs of liquid moving through the area. Upon completion of the excavation a dark greenish liquid was leaching out of the rock strata. A sample of this liquid was also taken to check for metals and CN. Earlier M.S.D. had injected a florezine dye into the pit, to try and trace the movement of the wash water, they found no evidence of the material entering the canal, or the marsh area west of the site. It is possible that the waste material is localized in the general area. Definite plans have not been made as to the clean up operation. The following areas will need attention:

Determine the area contaminated by the wash water.

Removal of any drums that contain any type of special waste material.

Removal of any contaminated soil either due to drum leakage or from the washing operation.

Application for a permit as a transfer-reclaimer operation.

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Future inspections will be made as lab analysis reports come in, and the area of soil contamination is determined.

cc: Bill Child
Northern Region ✓
Ken Bechely